

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 017417

R 050937Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3682

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UN, KS

SUBJ: ISRAEL AND KOREAN ISSUE

1. ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR VARON IN MFA INVITED US TO CALL ON HIM
JULY 2 TO DISCUSS GOI DISSATISFACTION WITH STATE OF ISRAELI-
SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS AND TO WARN THAT ISRAEL AS RESULT MAY ABSTAIN
ON KOREAN ISSUE WHEN IT ARISES AT FORTHCOMING UNGA.

2. VARON RELATED FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED
AS AMOUNTING TO VIRTUAL ROK TERMINATION OF SOUTH KOREAN-
ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP AT ISRAELI END.

(A) SOUTH KOREA RECENTLY CONVENED CONF OF ITS AMBASSADORS
TO MID EAST COUNTRIES AND DID NOT INCLUDE SOUTH KOREAN
AMB IN ROME, WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ROK AMB TO
ISRAEL. (FOR THE TWO YEARS HE HAS BEEN SO FAR IN ROME,
HE HAS NOT YET COME TO ISRAEL TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS.)

(B) RECENT TECHNICAL SEMINAR WHICH ECAFE SPONSORED IN ISRAEL
AND ATTENDED BY STUDENTS FROM VARIETY EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES
WAS SUPPOSED TO INCLUDE FOUR SOUTH KOREAN PARTICIPATNS, BUT
THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED BY ROK TO ATTEND.

(C) SEVERAL SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY OFFICERS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST
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TO ISRAELI EMB IN SEOUL IN VISITING ISRAEL TO STUDY OCTOBER

WAR AND ISRAELI-CAPTURED SOVIET EQUIPMENT WERE TOLD BY ROK
THEY COULD NOT GO.

(D) SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN
PURCHASING ISRAELI-MADE ARMS, BUT WHEN ISRAELI EMB CAME
BACK WITH REQUESTED DATA ON ARMS, IT WAS TOLD THAT ROK ARMED
FORCES WERE NO LONGER INTERESTED.

3. VARON SAID SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIALS, WHILE DECLINING TO
ANSWER ISRAELI EMB QUESTIONS ABOUT ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS,
HAD BEEN PLEADING ARAB OIL PROBLEMS PLUS ROK HOPES FOR SAUDI
INVESTMENT IN SOUTH KOREA TO EXPLAIN CURRENT ROK NEGOTIATIONS
WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND LEBANON ON OPENING OF ROK EMBASSIES IN
THOSE COUNTRIES. ISRAELIS HAD EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING ON
LATTER SITUATION AND ALSO HAD GIVE ROK DUE CREDIT FOR RELATIVE
OBJECTIVITY OF ROK DECLARATION ON MID EAST FOLLOWING
OCTOBER WAR, ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON WITH PRO-ARAB
JAPANESE STATEMENT. BUT VARON SAID LATEST DEVELOPMENTS NOTED
PARA 2 ABOVE HAD IRRITATED PEOPLE IN ISRAEL, WHO FELT THERE HAD
TO BE LIMIT TO GOI TOLERANCE OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC WARFARE AGAINST
ISRAEL. IF ISRAEL DID NOT DRAW LINE SOMEWHERE, IT WOULD ONLY
ENCOURAGE ARABS.

4. WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNGA HANDLING OF KOREAN ISSUE WAS
IMPORTANT FOR US AND AGREED TO SEEK REACTION OR COMMENT FROM
DEPT RE CURRENT GOI DIFFICULTIES WITH ROK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, VOTING ABSTENTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV03682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740178-0584
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740771/aaaacixc.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAEL AND KOREAN ISSUE
TAGS: PFOR, IS, KS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005